

What can you do if you think you are a victim of a scam?

Call your financial institution, and then contact your local police department immediately. Advice is also available by calling the following numbers:

Norfolk District Attorney:

(617) 984-5600, ext. 118
(781) 830-4800

Attorney General's Elderly Hotline:

1-888-243-5337

National Fraud Information Center Hotline:

1-800-876-7060

Dear Senior Citizen:

As your District Attorney, I am committed to the aggressive prosecution of crimes against seniors in our community. You have worked hard all of your life. You have earned the right to enjoy your retirement years in dignity without fear of financial exploitation. If you or someone you know has been the victim of telemarketing fraud, please call your local police department or my office immediately.

**Remember: You are not alone.
Help is available.**



William R. Keating



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Telemarketing Scams

Safe Seniority

Did you know there are thousands of illegal telemarketing operations cheating people out of billions of dollars each year? And Internet burglars are busy, too. The types of scams that come to you by telephone are arriving by E-mail as well.

Good salespeople are convincing.... and so are criminals.

How Can You Spot a Scam?

You can't judge a person by the way they sound, or how friendly or sincere they seem to be. Here are some tips to help you recognize if the phone call or E-Mail you receive is a scam:

- The offer sounds too good to be true...then it probably is.

- You must pay up front to receive your prize. Legitimate businesses do not ask for money up front even for taxes, shipping and handling.
- The salesperson uses high pressure tactics or is intimidating. Watch out for phrases like: "you will lose out if you don't act now"... "you must pay immediately"... "you must pay cash"...
- The offer is from an unfamiliar company, often without a street address or direct telephone number.
- The person or company won't give you written details about the offer.

Hang Up! You Don't Have to Listen!

If you receive a telephone call from a salesperson that exhibits any of

these characteristics, just hang up. You can say goodbye politely, but don't wait for the salesperson to say goodbye... because they probably won't. Take the receiver away from your ear and hang it up, even if they are still talking.

Telemarketing fraud is a crime. You don't have to listen.

And never give out your credit card number, bank account number, or social security number over the telephone or by E-Mail unless you initiated the contact.

Criminals can use this information to withdraw funds from your bank account or order new credit cards in your name.